

THE WAR.

A daring act of piracy was committed on Monday last, off Cape Cod. The steamer Chesapeake was taken by a schooner, the *Chesapeake*, which was on board at New York. The chief engineer and mate were wounded, the second engineer was killed and thrown overboard; the captain and crew were landed at St. John's, N. B. The steamer then sailed in an easterly direction, and was subsequently seen alongside another vessel. It is supposed that she took on board a supply of coal from her. The steamer and cargo were valued at \$100,000. The steamer sailed from New York on Saturday, at 4 p. m., and was one of the regular line plying between New York and Portland. It was the Chesapeake that captured Capt. Reed and his party when they attempted to run away with the cutter *Cushing* from the harbor of Portland. The collector at Portland has asked for authority to send the gunboat *Agawam* after the Chesapeake. Dispatches from Washington state that vigorous measures have been already taken to capture the pirates, the *Agawam* and other vessels being ordered in pursuit.

CONGRESS.

SENATE, Dec. 9.—Mr. Foster presented the resolution of the General Assembly of Connecticut in favor of a modification of the Enrollment act, so that when organizations may have credit for the number of men raised on former calls for men. Mr. Powell gave notice of a bill to prevent Federal officers and soldiers interfering with elections in States. The President's Message was then read, and the usual number ordered to be printed. The Senate then went into an election for Chairman. On the second ballot, Mr. Chandler was re-elected, getting 21 votes out of 40. A message was received from the House announcing the passage of the joint resolution of thanks to Gen. Grant, and for bestowing a medal upon him, etc. Some discussion ensued as to immediate action thereon, but it being alleged that such hasty proceedings would afford a bad precedent, the resolution was ordered to lie on the table. Adjourned.

GENERAL NEWS.

New-Yorkers were tormented yesterday by one of those terrible dust-storms that make Winter drearful. Whether the dust for Mayor has anything to do with it we cannot say, but the fact that dirt has of late rapidly accumulated in the streets is manifest. Made thoroughly dry by the frost and pulverized by hoof and wheel, it is ready for a rise at the first puff of windy procreation. Yesterday we had a very fine storm of wind blowing from the west, and about ten thousand tons of dirt were blown into the air and fell thick and fast all day and night, filling the town with a cloud of the consistency of a shabby blanket, obscuring the sun, and making daylight needed at mid-afternoon. Going abroad was like wading a slough; blinded and choked by dust, one stumbled along at risk of his neck, until the wild sweep of the hurricane around some exposed corner for a moment tore the veil and at the sickly daylight upon his sleeping eyes—and then he saw a close likeness to the sea in a great storm, as the hills of dirt swayed against the brick chimneys and fell back in sand upon the imbedded walls. But why attempt to describe the indescribable? At night, the storm was still worse, but the blessed darkness made no distinction in some degree to the affliction. If the sweep of wind has been across the city, it is believed of a heavy job, although the Harbor Commissioners may have to dredge the East River to remove the enormous deposit. The only storm of all comparable with this was the storm of hard words over blinded eyes, scolding noses, coughing throats, and spitted clothes, that spray a million wretched soufflés.

The highest in the case of the victims of the late terrible steamboat disaster on the Hudson was continued at Yonkers, on Tuesday and Wednesday, before Coroner Williams. Among the numerous witnesses examined were Capt. Peck, the first and second engineers, both pilots, and the mechanic in whose establishment the boilers were repaired last Winter. All of the testimony went to show that the boilers were considered sound in every respect. The conduct of Capt. Peck and the officers of the boat was the subject of much praise by the passengers as appeared before the Coroner's Jury; the officers are said to have been perfectly cool and self-possessed throughout the trying occasion. Nothing definite has been elicited as to the probable cause of the explosion, but has any witness yet been allowed to show exactly in what part of the starboard boiler it occurred. Probably nothing certain will be known until the wreck is raised, and an examination made. The verdict of the Coroner's Jury, received last night, will be found in another column.

A conflagration occurred on Wednesday afternoon at the foot of Christopher, Chelsea, Aline and Perry streets, North River, in this city, involving the destruction of one brick, three wooden, and twenty barges. The total loss is roughly estimated at upwards of \$300,000. There is but little insurance.

The interests of N. Gamewell and James Dunlop, of South Carolina, in a large number of patents for improvements in telegraphing and electric bell, were condemned at Washington on Wednesday.

The steamship *Ariel*, from Aspinwall on the 28th ult. has put into Hampton Roads short of coal. She has 100 passengers, and reports expecting very heavy weather.

Gold has been much excited by the supposed contents of the Message, especially at 100, falling to 147½, and rising to 149½, where it remained quite steadily up to the close of business. At 4 p. m. the rate was 148½. At the Stock Exchange, Government Securities were firm, Stocks have been much excited throughout the day. Early in the morning, quotations were fully supported at the rates current for the last few days, and so continued up to the meeting of the Stock Exchange. At 10½ Government bonds, bank shares, and Border State stocks were steady, and in fair demand. The first indication of panic, or matter how strong, alarmed the "bulls," and some stocks subsided; but the "bears" covered their contracts at their bid, and at last some profit. Instead of a break breaking of stocks, such as has marked the business of the past week, they only became abundant, and were retained there. The names called by over sales disappeared at once, and buyers, anxious to cover short contracts, were scarce. Money is quoted at 7½ cent, and has shared the excitement of gold and stocks.

The (loyal) Legislature of Old Virginia organized yesterday at Alexandria, and Gov. Pierpont sent in his message. It is against Secession and in favor of Emancipation; it recommends a Convention to amend the Constitution to effect such purposes.

The report that the Rebels had sent a force to the north side of the Rapidan is not correct. The pickets of the respective armies occupy their former positions. At the upper fords the enemy have pickets on the north side, as heretofore; but from Somerville to Ely's Ford the river separates them.

The daring capture of the steamer Chesapeake by Rebel passengers has roused not only the people of Portland, but the Navy and State Departments. Orders for pursuit were promptly

given, and by this time three or four steamers are on Mr. Seward has directed our Consuls in British American ports to detain the steamer if she puts in at any harbor. As she is unable to make a long sea voyage, there is hope of her recapture.

The President's Message is printed on the third page (Supplementary sheet), followed by the Report of the Secretary of the Interior. On the fourth page are reports from the Naval Ordnance Bureau, Pension Bureau, Post-Office Department, and Bureau of Agriculture. The Bureau Report is on the fifth page. The Report of the Secretary of the Navy is on the second and eighth pages. That of the Secretary of War is on the first page of this sheet.

We expect the important Report of the Secretary of the Treasury to-day. Little is known of its contents, but it is stated that it will show a considerably less amount of public debt than was supposed two months ago by Mr. Chase. The present condition of public finances is satisfactory; receipts from all sources except internal revenue are largely in advance of estimates. The general summary of estimates for the year ending June 30, 1865, are as follows:

Miscellaneous (including collection of customs revenue)	\$7,000,000 00
Post-Office mail services	7,000,000 00
Civilization of Indians	10,000 00
Army Militia	200,000 00
Interest on Public Debt	8,500,000 00
Total	\$10,000,000 00
(The above by former acts of Congress.)	
Patent Office	\$10,000 00
Indian Department	2,000,000 00
Army proper	500,000 00
Military Academy	200,000 00
Fortifications, Ordnance, &c.	21,000,000 00
The Navy	142,000,000 00
Total	\$200,000,000 00
Total with old appropriation	\$210,000,000 00

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The plan presented by President Lincoln in his Annual Message for the restoration of the insurgent States to the authority and rights allotted by their rebellion, will attract the widest attention both in this country and in Europe. Hitherto the attorneys of treason on the stump and in the journals of the loyal States have urged the uselessness of desisting from rebellion as an excuse for persistence therein. "If they should withdraw their support from the rebel leaders and return to loyalty and fidelity, you will nevertheless confiscate all their property and divest them of every civil and political right: so why should they? What is to be their motive—their inducement?" The President has answered the question and silenced the cavil. Every person now within the territory of the Rebellion, with the exception of two or three thousand of its more conspicuous and determined chiefs, may secure a full pardon tomorrow, and be restored to all his former privileges as a loyal citizen of the United States, with his property intact (save that which may have already been confiscated and sold), on the easy condition of his swearing allegiance to the United States, and to abide by and acquiesce in the acts of Congress and Executive Proclamations affecting the status of slaves, "so long and so far as not repealed, modified, or declared void by Congress, or by a decision of the Supreme Court." Here is required no assumption of the universal efficiency and irrevocable validity of those acts and proclamations, but a simple agreement to respect and abide by them, and each of them, until the same shall be invalidated either by Congress or the Supreme Court of the United States. How can any one who means to be loyal at all, object to these conditions? Ninety of every hundred Rebels may be restored to every right to-morrow without sacrificing or relinquishing any particle of their property; while a minority of the residue are required to relinquish nothing but their right to oppress and sell their fellow men. We believe Tennessee, Louisiana and Arkansas may be reorganized and restored to the Union on this basis at an early day, and that the residue will gradually follow.

Henceforth, it can neither be truthfully nor plausibly said that those who have once been Rebels have no inducement to return to loyalty, no hope but in the triumph of Disunion. They may come back to-morrow and enjoy every political or social privilege and advantage enjoyed or claimed by any of us. We proffer them equality with ourselves. Should not that suffice and content them?

The country must now realize that naught but Slavery obstructs the way to Peace and Reunion. In no metaphoric or poetic sense, the Union and Liberty are henceforth inseparable. They will either rejoice in a common deliverance and triumph or fill the same bloody grave.

Of course, the master-spirits of the revolt will not be conciliated. They have staked their all upon the east, and must stand the hazard of the die. But what possible motive will a non-slaveholder have for persisting in rebellion after receiving due notice of the issuing of this Proclamation? Merciless bands may still scour the region cursed by the revolt, and drag every man and youth into the Rebel camps—often by the help of bloodhounds: but to what end shall the non-slaveholding co-scripts remain and fight? What they risk and lose by contumacy is obvious: where is the counterbalancing gain? Depend on it, this Proclamation, if seconded and sustained in the loyal States, will go to break the back of the Rebellion.

In Europe, it will be even more generally efficient. The Spanish malvolence betrayed by

the Secession emotes is rarely or never exhibited in Europe through quotations from the Rebel journals; yet none can fail to realize the regretful tenderness and kindly charity wherewith the Rebel money are contemplated by the President. Though his official term of service has been rendered anxious and troubled by their treason, he has never ceased to regard them as deceived and misled, and to desire their speedy return to loyalty and peace. The more influential British and French journals conceal this, so far as possible, from their readers; yet the truth gradually makes itself known and respected. But when the loyal North, through the President, proffers amnesty and restoration on the single condition of acquiescence in Universal Freedom until Congress or the Supreme Court shall decide that this is a condition which the President had no right to impose, why should any stand out? And how can Liberal Europe withhold her ardent, active sympathy from the cause that asks nothing of its deadly enemies but that they let the oppressed go free? The Times will misrepresent and The Saturday Review defame us as usual; the aristocracy may still frown or sneer; but the masses of Europe, already instinctively our friends, will be impelled by this proffer to a more general and hearty enthusiasm in behalf of that Union which now represents, even more emphatically than hitherto, the aspirations of bowed and struggling Labor throughout the civilized world. Thanks, then, to our President for the wise humanity and generous impulses which prompted the issue of his Proclamation of amnesty! It must be that in this sign we shall conquer!

THE WAR REPORT.

Secretary Stanton rapidly reviews the more important military operations of the year, referring especially to the victories of Stone River, Gettysburg, Vicksburg, and Port Hudson, the operations in Tennessee, the recent splendid successes of Gen. Grant before Chattanooga, the opening of the Mississippi and territorial division of the Rebel Confederacy, the campaign of Gen. Burnside in East Tennessee and his gallant defense of Knoxville, the occupation of the western frontier of Texas, and the probable restoration of the State. The armies in Virginia are relatively in about the same position as last year, and their campaigns have resulted in nearly equal losses. But the general success of the year is so great that the Department is able to reduce its estimates for the ensuing year more than \$20,000,000.

The present suspension of the exchange of prisoners is due to the bad faith of the Rebels in putting the paroled Vicksburg and Port Hudson prisoners into the field before they were exchanged, and to the refusal to recognize colored troops as prisoners of war. The Rebels are attempting by barbarous treatment of our prisoners to compel the Government to exchange 40,000 for 13,000, and to leave our colored troops to Rebel mercy. If necessary for the protection of our soldiers, strict retaliation in the treatment of prisoners will be resorted to.

The Enrollment act has been enforced in twelve States, producing 50,000 soldiers, and \$10,000,000. The act is imperfect, but can be made an efficient means for recruiting the National forces. No decisive opinion is expressed on the \$300 commutation clause. A large proportion of veterans will resist, and the required forces will in a great measure be raised by volunteering. An immediate appropriation for bounties should be made. The invalid corps, organized to give honorable employment to partially disabled officers and soldiers, numbers over 20,000, and is in all respects a success.

Colored troops have been diligently enlisted; 50,000 are now in service, and their numbers rapidly increase. Their courage and capacity have been amply proved at Milliken's Bend, Fort Hudson, and Fort Wagner; and more recently negro cavalry, in the Yazoo Valley, routed a superior force of Rebels. These troops have been allowed no bounty, and are paid but ten dollars a month—a distinction which is unequal and unjust, and to remove which an amendment of the law is recommended. The colored women and children, and the aged and infirm, should be provided for by Government.

Some matters in the Adjutant-General's office are briefly touched. A system of exact accountability, in leave of absence cases, has been established.—The Ordnance expenses for the year have been \$42,313,630 91. During the same period 1,577 cannon, 1,022,811 muskets and rifles, 292,789 carbines and pistols, 1,235,000 cannon shot and shell, 48,719,762 pounds of lead and bullets, 1,435,946 artillery cartridges, 250,022,216 cartridges for small arms, and other munitions in proportion have been purchased. A tabular abstract is given. The domestic manufacture of arms and munitions has greatly increased and improved. So of the materials used; wrought iron, for instance, being now made in America superior to that imported.—Two millions of dollars should be appropriated for supplying the State militias with arms.—Seaboard and border fortifications have been put during the year in a much stronger defensive condition.—Vacancies from the Rebel States in the Military Academy at West Point have been supplied from the loyal States. A report concerning the Academy is annexed.—The surveys of the Northern and North-Western Lakes have been actively continued, and a report is expected on the defensive works required to guard the lake shores.

For details of operations in the Quartermaster-General's Department, reference is made to his report. A Cavalry Bureau for the supply of horses has been established. The Commissary-General's office has kept the army at all points supplied with abundance of wholesome food, and has also furnished subsistence to prisoners, contrabands in great numbers, and to suffering Unionists in Rebel States. The armies have been paid, with few exceptions, to Oct. 31 of the present year, the latest

period allowed by law.—There are 182 general hospitals, containing 84,472 beds. The number of patients, June 30, in the general hospitals was 9.1 per cent, and in the field 4.4 per cent of the whole strength of the army, of whom 11 per cent are wounded and 2.5 per cent sick. By the system of inspectors the medical and hospital service has been greatly improved, and the health of the troops has been good, and their mortality less than last year.—The Signal Corps is differently valued by different Generals, but its continuance is recommended with proper restrictions.—The Military Telegraph has been of inestimable value. On the 12th July, 1862, there were 3,571 miles of land and submarine lines, and during the year 1,755 miles were constructed, making a total of 5,326 miles in operation. It is estimated that 1,200,000 telegrams have been sent within the year, varying in length from ten to a thousand words.

Commissioners under act of Congress have reported that \$800,612 are due to officers and men actually employed in the Western Department, or Department of Missouri, for pay, bounty, and pensions. An appropriation to that amount is recommended.—Other large classes of claims require Congressional legislation for their adjustment and payment.—The Judge-Advocate-General and his assistants have been diligent and successful in the detection and prevention of military crimes and frauds. The office demands an enlargement of its facilities. During fourteen months 17,537 military trials were reviewed, and 2,490 reports issued.—Credit is given by the Secretary to the Chiefs of Bureau in the War Department for their efficiency, and the report concludes with the hope that another year will see the Rebellion completely overturned.

THE NAVY DEPARTMENT.

The Secretary of the Navy opens his report with a review of the blockade during the past year—a blockade unparalleled in point of extent, for it covers, according to accurate table of measurement prepared at the Coast Survey Office, a distance of 3,540 statute miles, with 100 harbor or river openings, or indentations. The blockade is becoming more effective and complete. Progress has been made in repelling the Rebels from the coast and circumscribing their limits.

The North Atlantic Squadron has so efficiently penetrated, watched and guarded the rivers of Virginia, the sounds of North Carolina and the entire coast, as to cut off all intercourse with the Rebels, with the single exception of the port of Wilmington, to close which has been difficult from its two inlets, thirty miles apart, flanked by extensive batteries. Some fast steamers have, under the cover of darkness, succeeded in eluding capture, but most even of that description of vessels have fallen into our hands or been driven on shore.

The chief mart of the blockade-runners, Charleston, has been in the course of the year, entirely closed to them. A first attempt, made by Rear-Admiral Du Pont on the 7th of April, proved unsuccessful; but it is believed that since July, when Rear-Admiral Dahlgren took command of the fleet, and soon after captured Morris Island, no vessels have eluded the vigilance of our fleet or effected communication with the Rebels on that coast. Not a single blockade-runner has reached Charleston for five months. Thus, as a commercial mart, Charleston no longer exists; as a strategic point it is of little consequence. Within the limits of this squadron, the most extraordinary naval conflict during the year occurred—the battle between the *Washawton*, a vessel of the Monitor class, and the formidable Rebel steamer *Atlanta*. It was a test both of this new class of vessels, and of the new 15-inch ordnance. The remarkable result, the capture of the formidable Rebel craft after only fifteen minutes' resistance, made a sensation throughout the civilized world, and appears to have extinguished the last hopes of the Rebels to withstand our naval power by naval means.

The Eastern Gulf Squadron has almost entirely annihilated the illicit trade in its department, which, on account of the nearness of Florida to Cuba and Nassau, presents so many available ports for eluding the blockade. More than one hundred craft have been captured or destroyed.

The Western Gulf and the Mississippi Squadrons assisted in some of the greatest victories obtained for our cause during the year—the former adding to reducing Port Hudson, and the latter in reducing Vicksburg. Together they thus opened the navigation of the Mississippi—one of the heaviest blows inflicted upon the Rebels since the beginning of the war. Only one point of importance for successfully eluding the blockade was still in the possession of the Rebels—the mouth of the Rio Grande; and this has now also been closed by the successful expedition of Gen. Banks.

The increase of the naval force during the past year has again been very considerable. At the commencement of the Administration it consisted of 76 vessels, and of these only 42 were in commission. In December, 1862, the number of our vessels was 427; during the current year it has increased to 588.

The Secretary calls attention to the highly important improvements in naval warfare to which our war has led, and which have transformed the entire civilized world—the introduction into naval service of iron shielding and of ordnance of a caliber, reach and power heretofore regarded as impossible. He urges upon the consideration of Congress the adoption of further measures for creating a powerful navy. The establishment of a new Navy-Yard on a large scale, he regards as an indispensable necessity, as our present facilities for manufacturing and repairing steam machinery are entirely insufficient. Suggestions are made as to the establishment of a Naval Depot on the Mississippi, the education of engineers, the Naval Academy, the enlistment of seamen and other important subjects.

The number of vessels captured by the squadrons and reported to the Department on the 1st of November is 1,045, classified as follows: Schooners, 547; steamers, 179; sloops, 131; brigs, 20; barques, 29; ships (6) wrecks not

signed or been otherwise mustered out, shall afterward die (as is alleged) from wounds or disease contracted in the service, but, if it is proper and right to do this, Congress, and not the Secretary of the Interior, should so determine. In any case, such an extension of the purview of the Pension system will open doors to fraud that require to be very carefully guarded. We think Mr. Usher's mistake in the premises likely to prove serious.

GREAT GUNS IN THE NAVY.

The Report of the Ordnance Bureau gives an interesting view of the enforced progress of work in that important branch of service. The naval ordnance at the beginning of 1861 consisted of 1,872 thirty-two, 575 eight-inch, 305 nine-inch Dahlgrens, 46 ten-inch, old and new, 32 eleven-inch Dahlgrens; making 2,820 heavy guns; with 29 twenty-four, 107 twelve, and 136 boat howitzers. We have now 1,292 howitzers of all kinds, 1,872 thirty-two, 575 eight-inch, 808 nine-inch Dahlgrens, 56 ten-inch, old and new, 223 eleven-inch Dahlgrens, 209 thirteen-inch mortars, 214 twenty-pound Parrotts, 237 thirty-pound Parrotts, 180 one-hundred-pound Parrotts, 60 one-hundred-and-fifty-pound Parrotts, 13 twenty-pound rifled Parrotts, and 36 fifteen-inch smooth bores; in all, 5,777 pieces, against 2,966 in 1861. Over 700 more guns of the new sort will be done before the year closes. Several new foundries have been started, and the means are now equal to the demand. The enormous amount of projectiles used may be seen in the following figures: Shell, made and bought, 678,617; shot, 80,302; shrapnell, grape, and canister, 9,443,943 pounds. Of gunpowder, 2,989 tons have been ordered since March 1, 1861—of which 2,676 tons were from foreign mines. The report details operations in small-arms, gun-carriages, fuses, &c. All this appertains to the Navy alone. The report says: "The general efficiency of the ordnance of our Navy far exceeds that of any other, its superiority being due mainly, or wholly, to the improvements of the last two years. Further extensive improvements are in contemplation, and estimates in accordance are presented to Congress."

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

History records with admiration that, while Hannibal's victorious army besieged Rome, the ground on which he was encamped was sold in the beleaguered city, and brought quite as good a price as it would have done were the Republic at peace and the fierce Carthaginian content and quiet in Africa. We must think the buyer evinced more pluck than business sagacity, although the events saved him from the reproach of having demonstrated his patriotism at the expense of his pocket. And so, when we read that our Government has continued to expend hundreds of thousands on the extension and embellishment of her Capitol, on the introduction of water from the Potomac into the City where that Capitol is located, while it is struggling desperately against a Rebellion which threatens its existence, which has repeatedly displayed its victorious standards within sight of that metropolis which it once confidently hoped to make its own, and which the chances of war might at any moment enable to burn that metropolis and destroy or fearfully debase and disfigure that magnificent Capitol and its adjuncts, we readily and cheerfully admit that this is a great country, and that some of its performances must fill the civilized world with amazement if not with admiration.

But courage may run into rashness, while confidence in "Manifest Destiny" may be exaggerated to downright folly. In our judgment, all work on public edifices and water-works in and about Washington should have been suspended on the day that advice was received of the bombardment of Sumter, not to be resumed until the last Rebel flag within the boundaries of the Union had been hauled down and burnt to ashes. The Pacific Railroad—of incalculable and pressing importance as it is—should not have been commenced till the Rebellion was crushed. Even the surveys of Public Lands not pressing needed should have stood still, while purchases from Indian tribes should have been utterly arrested. There should have been but one National purpose, one absorbing thought—the crushing out of the Slaveholders' Rebellion—until that permanent end had been achieved. And this, we are confident, would have been the course of any people less vain-glorious and self-indulgent than ours. Can no amount of adulatory and puff-chastity into society and common sense?

We are thinking of Secretary Usher's Report, but we are not criticizing it. He is a public servant, and obeys orders. His annual exhibit of the doings of the Interior Department is held and gratifying. It is a gratifying fact that, though our Free Homestead act only went into operation in January last, more than One Million and a Half of acres have already been located under it, in the very midst of the greatest and costliest war ever known. The Secretary is entirely right in recommending that the wife of a soldier in his country's service should be authorized to make and perfect a presumption, in her husband's absence; but care must be taken not to open a door through which all manner of absentees and non-residents may acquire a title to homes from the Public Domain. And we trust new surveys will not be pushed too vigorously until the conclusion of our Civil War. Let the soldiers, when the War shall be over, have the best of our Public Lands offered, free of charge, from which to select their future homes.

Mr. Usher's Report is so muscular and, in the main, so judicious, that we are a little surprised at this evident mistake in the matter of Invalid Pensions—a mistake of which he seems himself dimly conscious. The law grants these pensions to persons who die, whether of wounds or disease, in the Military or Naval service of the United States. It may or may not be wise to extend its benefits to persons who, having re-

signed or been otherwise mustered out, shall afterward die (as is alleged) from wounds or disease contracted in the service, but, if it is proper and right to do this, Congress, and not the Secretary of the Interior, should so determine. In any case, such an extension of the purview of the Pension system will open doors to fraud that require to be very carefully guarded. We think Mr. Usher's mistake in the premises likely to prove serious.

The Secretary is probably right in seeking to make our mines of Gold and Silver contribute directly to the replenishment of our sorely overburdened Treasury; but how will he do it? To any and every scheme for filling the Rocky Mountains and the desert wastes of Idaho and Nevada with toll-gatherers from the miners we are inflexibly opposed. It may look ever as promising on paper, but it will prove a veritable nuisance without adding one stiver to the National resources. The scheme has been thoroughly tried with regard to the Lead mines of Co West and the Copper mines of Lake Superior, and proved a costly operation. But let an act be passed forbidding the exportation of Gold in any shape but that of Coin or minted bars, and requiring all Gold mined in this country to be sent to the National mints for coinage or assay, and imposing a moderate tax or seigniorage on such assay, and something may be made of it. We shall soon be digging \$100,000,000 per annum of Gold and Silver, on which five per cent. seigniorage ought to pay the expenses of all our Mints and put \$4,000,000 net into the Treasury. In that shape, the mine may be made directly productive to the Treasury; probably not in any other.

PENSION BUREAU.

Only 18 Revolutionary pensioners remain on the official rolls, drawing the small sum of \$1,044 82 last year; 1,573 widows of Revolutionary soldiers are still pensioned, and took \$132,236 74. Up to June 30 last, there were 7,348 Army invalid pensioners, drawing \$383,670 67; widows, orphans, and dependent mothers, 4,820; admitted during last year, 3,030; amount paid, \$342,731 37. Army pensioners granted during the year ending June 30, 1863, whole number, 544; amount paid, \$23,022 24. Widows, orphans, and dependent mothers on Navy list, 577; amount paid, \$116,443; number added during the year, 316. Whole number of Army pensioners on the list June 30, 18,859; pensions due them, \$1,247,641 88. Whole number of Navy pensioners, 1,132; due, \$144,674 61. During the year there has been a decrease of 12 Revolutionary pensioners, and 277 widows of such; an increase of 3,370 army invalid pensioners, 3,335 widows and orphans of such; 123 navy invalids, 41 widows of such; and 1 increase on privateer pensions—net increase, 6,682. The annual rate in money has increased from \$921,076 69 to \$1,571,376 43; the amount paid from \$739,844 76 to \$1,025,135 91. There have been 692 land warrants granted, covering 94,290 acres. The grants for three years are: 1861, 834,720 acres; 1862, 257,800; 1863, 21,230. Since the Government was organized, 45,836,112 acres have gone for military and naval service; value, \$2,379,175 50. Whole amount paid to June 30, 1863, \$31,635,630 97; total, land included, \$174,063,837 47. Claims are acted upon with reasonable facility; those properly presented are generally decided within two months. Examining Surgeons have been increased to over 600, with benefit to the Government. The requirements for the current year will be \$4,084,292 88. The Invalid Corps has now 14,000 men, and is of advantage both to the soldier and the Government, relieving the pension list of a heavy burden, and securing to the soldier adequate pay, and to the country efficient defenders.

THE CHESAPEAKE.

It is no cause for surprise that a gang of Rebel pirates has seized a steamer which recently left this harbor for Portland. It is only remarkable that the enterprise was not long since undertaken. What was to prevent? Steamers daily leave this port without inspection of any kind. There is no passport system, no detective system, no more supervision or watchfulness than if the country was buried in profoundest peace. New-York is openly the depot and rendezvous of Rebel enterprises and spies of every description. They carry on the business of Rebellion with no hindrance from anybody. A great hotel on Broadway is their headquarters; its proprietor and nine-tenths of its guests perfectly well known to be Rebels. The City ostentatiously offers all facilities to Rebel agents. All markets are accessible to them. They have powerful friends. They seem to have no enemies or opponents. The Custom-House gets its postals to their commerce. The great lines of steamers which ply from New-York are subsidized by them, and are the regular carriers of their mails, their agents, their cargoes.

Take an instance out of many. The *Conestoga* steamer *Carolina* left this port on Monday for Nassau; that British *Can* of Rebel and Anglo-Rebel pirates. We are assured that on this steamer went twenty or thirty men who were notoriously Rebel agents and officers; necessarily known to be such by the officers of the steamer, who themselves are Rebel sympathizers. Among them was one Comstock—for the last two years the general Rebel agent at Havana, who has done not less for the Rebel cause than Lee or Davis; for he has been the soul of all schemes for supplying the Confederacy by breach of the blockade. This man was pointed out on board the vessel to a United States Revenue officer, but the officer replied it was not his business to make arrests, and would take no step to stop him—so he went unarrested; he and his comrades.

While such things are possible, why should not piracy flourish? Does any man doubt that the plot to seize the Chesapeake was well known in this city, and that her capture was chuckled over in the New-York Hotel last night? And yet need such things be possible? The remedy is in the hands of the Government if they choose to apply it. But as matters stand to-day, any number of Rebels may embark on any steamer that leaves this port and take possession of her if they choose before she